

Add the following new section under Chapter 2:

2.6 POLICY ON TRAFFIC PROTECTION

A. Traffic Control - The primary function of all temporary traffic control is to provide for the safe and efficient movement of vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians through or around temporary traffic control zones while reasonably protecting workers and equipment. A concurrent objective of the temporary traffic control is the efficient construction and maintenance of the highway and utilities.

A-1. General: As a minimum, the Utility shall comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), current edition, for all utility work - whether or not written authorization is required. Copies of the current MUTCD may be obtained from the FHWA web page at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>.

The safe passage of vehicular traffic, bicyclists and pedestrians through and around a temporary traffic control work zone, while minimizing confusion and disruption to traffic flow, shall have priority over all other utility activities. During the initial installation or construction of the facilities authorized by a permit, or during any future repair, removal or relocation thereof, or during any miscellaneous operations and maintenance activities, the Utility shall at all times, install, maintain and remove all certified flaggers, signs, warning lights, channelization devices and other safety devices as described in the MUTCD and the temporary traffic control plan. All temporary traffic control devices shall be removed from the Department's right of way as soon as practical when they are no longer needed. When work is suspended for short periods of time, temporary traffic control devices that are no longer applicable shall be removed or covered.

The Engineer reserves the right to require additional certified flaggers, signs, warning lights, channelization devices and other safety devices as may be necessary to properly protect, warn and safeguard the traveling public. Continued failure of the Utility to comply with the requirements of this or any other related section will result in the Engineer issuing a written order to stop work (i.e. Stop Work Order). Upon issuance of a stop work order, all utility work on the right of way will be suspended, except erosion control and traffic control, until corrective actions or deficiencies are addressed, and the Engineer issues a written resume work order.

In addition to this section, procedures and requirements for traffic control associated with a permit are contained in Chapter 3 and with highway construction are contained in Chapter 4. Safety and Convenience of Traffic requirements are described in Chapter 5.

A-2. Flagger - All flaggers shall be certified from a Department approved training program. Flaggers shall have their certification with them at all times, when flagging, and may be subject to inspection. Failure to provide certified flaggers shall be reason for suspending work requiring the flagger(s) until a certified flagger can be provided.

B. Restriction Against Interference with Traffic - The Utility shall so conduct their operations that there will be a minimum of confusion with or disruption of traffic upon and along the highway. This applies to both the initial installation and the continuing maintenance and operation of utility facilities. On heavily traveled highways, construction or non-emergency maintenance operations interfering with traffic shall not be allowed during periods of peak traffic flow. All work shall be planned so that closure of intersecting streets, road approaches, or other access points is held to a minimum. It shall be the responsibility of the Utility to notify property owners when private driveways are to be affected and to provide temporary measures to maintain access during construction.

Except in emergencies, there shall be no interference with or interruption of traffic upon and along the highway until a temporary traffic control plan has been addressed in accordance with Section 3.7 and other related sections. In emergencies the Utility shall notify the Department's Area Engineer or Area Permit Inspector, as soon as practical, but no later than 2 hours after the onset of the emergency. If the emergency occurs during non-business hours, including weekends, the Utility shall contact the Department's emergency operations number at 404-635-8000 (Atlanta Metro Area) or 1-888-635-8287 (Statewide). The Department reserves the right to prohibit any work which may interfere with traffic movement during times of peak traffic flow.

C. Restrictions on Access - It is expressly provided that, with respect to any limited access highway, the Utility, except as hereinafter provided, shall not have or gain direct access, either ingress or egress, from the main traveled way of said highway or its on or off ramps to any of the facilities authorized by the permit, and that access to said facilities from the main traveled way, or on or off ramps of said highway, is absolutely prohibited, either by vehicle or by foot. However, upon notice to the Department's Area Engineer or his representative that the construction of the authorized facilities pursuant to the permit is to be undertaken, or that an emergency exists and repairs are needed for the immediate protection of property and persons or prevention of injury, the Department may approve direct access for ingress and egress to said authorized facilities from said on and off ramps or main traveled ways, except that no vehicular traffic movement shall be allowed which would cross traffic or be contrary to normal traffic movement. Such permission will only be granted during the actual time of the construction of the authorized facilities or of the emergency, and the Utility agrees to take every precaution during such periods to safeguard the highway users. It is understood by the Utility that any violation of the above regulations governing limited access highways shall result in a cancellation of access privileges herein contained.